

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

505a47 1. A character input apparatus comprising, an operation unit, a support for supporting the operation unit so as to be inclinable, a first detection unit for generating a different signal corresponding to the inclination direction of the operation unit, a second detection unit for generating a signal based on a motion when the operation unit is moved in a direction different from the inclination direction, and a control unit for selecting any data from among N data groups based on detected output from the first detection unit when the operation unit is inclined and for finalizing data selected based on detected output from the second detection unit when the operation unit is operated in the direction different from the inclination direction.

505a47 2. The character input apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the support is provided with two rotational shafts that are rotated when the operation unit is inclined and two rotation detection means for detecting the rotation magnitude of each rotation shaft, the two rotation detection means constitute the first detection unit, and the detected output is obtained from the second detection unit when the operation unit is moved in the direction perpendicular to the rotational

shafts.

3. The character input apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control unit selects the data successively based on the output change of the first detection unit when the inclination direction of the operation unit is changed while the inclination of the operation unit that is inclined in a desired direction is being maintained.

4. The character input apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the N data groups include 26 alphabetical characters A, B, C, ..., Z.

SUSA 57 5. The character input apparatus according to claim 4, wherein a conversion means for converting the input data of alphabetical character to kana characters or further to kanji characters is provided additionally.

SUSA 57 6. The character input apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, when the control unit selects the data and the selected data is displayed on the display unit, the control unit generates the display data so that not only the data selected based on the inclination direction of the operation unit but also one data or a plurality of data positioned before and after adjacent to the selected data is displayed simultaneously on the

add a 67

21